

The Protection & Advocacy System for South Carolina

January 2, 2018

Representative Sam Johnson Chairman Social Security Subcommittee House Ways and Means Committee 2304 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC. 20515 Representative John Larson Ranking Member Social Security Subcommittee House Ways and Means Committee 1501 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC. 20515

Dear Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member Larson:

On behalf of Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities, Inc. (South Carolina), I want to thank you for your strong support of H.R. 4547, the Strengthening Protections for Social Security Beneficiaries Act of 2017. We also were very pleased that Representative Tom Rice is a co-sponsor of H.R. 4547. Enactment of this legislation will provide critical protections for Social Security beneficiaries as well as needed reforms to the crucial representative payee program.

The need for changes in the representative payee program have been clearly demonstrated by news stories, Office of Inspector General and Government Accountability Office reports, and hearings held by the House Ways and Means Committee. Your bipartisan legislation proposes many important and needed changes that will streamline the program as well as take important steps to increase oversight of the representative payee program by funding the nationwide network of P&A systems to monitor how representative payees are administering the Social Security funds received by beneficiaries.

Again, we greatly appreciate your work together on this important issue culminating in the introduction of this critical legislation. We stand ready to work with both of you to quickly get this important legislation enacted into law. Should you have any questions or need more information, feel free to contact me at prevost@pandasc.org or 803 217 6713.

Very truly yours,

Executive Director